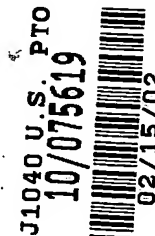


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE #3

In re Application of: )  
)  
Riichiro TAKAHASHI et al. )  
) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned )  
) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Filed: February 15, 2002 )  
)  
For: METHOD FOR FORMING A )  
PATTERN )



Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Laid Open (Kokai) No. 9-106081 discloses a pre-wet process to modify surface wettability by chemical solutions (See Fig. 1 and claims 1-4).

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2. Japanese Patent Laid Open (Kokai) No. 2-275618 discloses an oxidation process of patterned photoresist by exposing to ozonic atmosphere to remove residues after development process (See claim 1).

3. Japanese Patent Laid Open (Kokai) No. 11-288877 discloses a pre-wet process with alcoholic solutions to prevent generation of air-bubbles on surface (See Fig. 1 and claims 1-3).

4. Japanese Patent Laid Open (Kokai) No. 8-213359 discloses an oxidation process of patterned surface for wet-etching process (See claims 1-18).

5. Japanese Patent Laid Open (Kokai) No. 2000-241990 discloses a pre-wet treatment with D.I. water before PEB process to promote chemical reactions during PEB (See claims 1-3).

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please  
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 15, 2002

By: 

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